

MANFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION LINE

Child Care Ordinance of the City of Mansfield

In an effort to promote a higher level of safety in Child Care Facilities in the City of Mansfield, and to provide some means of regulating Child Care Facilities in the City, an Ordinance concerned with health, safety, and sanitation of these facilities was adopted.

The Child Care Ordinance is administered jointly by the City Secretary's Office and the Mansfield Fire Department's Fire Prevention Office. Violations of any section of the Ordinance may result in fines of up to \$2000.00 per day, in addition to other enforcement action for Fire and Building Code Violations and State Standards.

The Ordinance governs any facility (including private homes) where care, custody, training, education, treatment or supervision is provided for more than six children (exclusive of persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption to the owner or operator of the facility), for all or part of a 24 hour day on a regular basis at least two days a week, at least 26 weeks per year, and more than ¼ of the children cared for at the facility are under 11 years of age.

Exemptions are provided for the following facilities:

1. A State operated facility.
2. An agency home as designated by the Texas Department of Human Resources Code, Section 42.002(11).
3. A facility that is operated in connection with a business, religious organization, or establishment where children are cared for during short periods while parents or persons responsible for the children are attending religious services, or engaging in other activities on or near the premises.
4. A school for religious instruction that does not last longer than two weeks that is conducted by a religious organization during the summer months.
5. A youth camp licensed by the Texas Department of Health.
6. A hospital licensed by the Texas Department of Health.

7. An educational facility, accredited by the Central Education Agency or the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, that operates primarily for education purposes in grades kindergarten and above.
8. An educational facility that operates solely for educational purposes in grades kindergarten through at least second grade, that does not provide custodial care for more than one hour during the hours before and after the customary school day and is a member of an organization that requires compliance with health, safety, fire, and sanitation standards equal to standards required by state, county, and municipal codes.
9. A kindergarten or preschool educational program that is operated as part of a public or private school accredited by the Central Education Agency and offers educational programs through grade six and does not provide custodial care before or after the customary school day.
10. A registered family home as defined by V.T.C.A., Human Resources Code, Section 42.002 (9).
11. An educational facility that is integral to, and inseparable from, its sponsoring religious organization, and which does not provide custodial care for more than two hours per day, and that offers educational programs for children ages five and above in one or more of the following:
 - A. Kindergarten through third grade.
 - B. Upper elementary or secondary grades, provided however, that a religious organization such as that described in subsection (3) above, where children are cared for during short periods while parents or persons responsible for the children are attending religious services or engaged in other activities on or near the premises, may provide custodial care for more than two hours per day.
12. The Mansfield Independent School District and schools accredited by the Texas Education Agency.

A **PERMIT IS REQUIRED** for all Child Care facilities who fall under the definition of a Child Care Facility as listed previously and that do not fall under an exemption as listed.

A permit application may be obtained from the Fire Administration Office located at 1305 East Broad Street. An annual permit fee of \$75.00 shall be payable upon application to the City of Mansfield, and thereafter, no later than January 30th of each year. A permit is valid from the date of issuance until January 30th. No refunds or prorating will be made on any application fees, and no permit is transferable.

COMPLAINTS: Complaints against unlicensed, unsafe, or unhealthy operations may be made by contacting the Texas Department of Human Resources at 817-861-6121 or the Mansfield Fire Department Fire Prevention Office at 817-276-4790.

THIS DOCUMENT IS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT A COPY OF THE COMPLETE ORDINANCE. TO OBTAIN A COMPLETE COPY CONTACT THE CITY SECRETARY'S OFFICE (817-276-4204) OR THE CITY OF MANSFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT (817-276-4790).